



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

18 SEPTEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – More than 1,000 Reports of Anti-Asian Racism in California since March

(U) The Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center, formed in March by multiple organizations to collect reports of anti-Asian discrimination throughout the country in response to growing reports of anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic, received 1,116 reports of anti-Asian discrimination in California between March and July this year. California reports make up more than 40% of the nationwide total of 2,583 reports. Of the types of discrimination reported, verbal harassment and name-calling were the most frequent, making up about 70.6% of incidents nationwide.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) San Bernardino – Firefighter Killed Battling El Dorado Fire in San Bernardino Forest

(U) United States Forest Service officials confirmed that a firefighter was killed amid the ongoing battle against the El Dorado Fire in the San Bernardino National Forest. The firefighter has not been identified and not details were given about the cause of death. The El Dorado Fire, which began in early September, has burned more than 19,000 acres and was about 66% contained as of Friday morning.

SOURCE: 18 September 2020, [KTLA](#)

(U) San Francisco – Fire Burns Armenian Church Building Overnight; Arson Suspected

(U) A building next to an Armenian church in San Francisco's Laurel Heights was burned overnight and the church's leaders believe it was arson. Shortly after dispatch received reports of a fire, fire crews arrived and managed to prevent it from spreading to the church, but the building appeared to be gutted. Both the San Francisco Police and Fire departments are investigating the fire as church leaders suspect the fire is a form of anti- Armenian harassment.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [CBS SF Bay Area](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona– Mexico Arrests American Smuggling in 13,000 Rounds of Ammo

(U) Nogales – The Mexican government advises it has caught a US citizen trying to smuggle 13,000 rounds of ammunition at a border crossing in Nogales. Mexico's National Guard advised that officers and customs authorities were checking incoming vehicles at the Nogales crossing when a car with Arizona license plates crashed into another vehicle when it tried to avoid the checkpoint. Officials then found the ammo in 13 boxes in the trunk of the car. No further details were provided about the driver, who was taken into custody. Mexico has long complained that weapons and ammunition smuggled in from the US have fueled the country's drug cartel violence.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arizona – Suspect Arrested, 2nd At-Large for Firing Assault Rifle at Arizona State Troopers

(U) Phoenix – One suspect has been arrested and a second is still at-large in an ambush-style shooting of

Arizona troopers. The suspect in custody allegedly fired multiple rounds at Arizona Department of Public Safety detectives in Phoenix with an assault rifle. The shooting occurred as troopers were in the area to serve a body warrant on a wanted subject. Neither troopers were injured. The shooter was apprehended on scene and officers are still looking for the driver.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Drug Seizures along Canadian Border up 1,000%, CBP Says

(U) Washington DC – US Customs and Border Protection advises it has seen a 1,000% spike in drugs seized along the northern border this year. The agency seized nearly 40,000 pounds of marijuana across 16 ports of entry worth between \$100 and \$120 million. Officials advise that the uptick is due in part to the legalization of marijuana in Canada last year. In addition, officials advise traditional organized crime, Asian organized crime, East Indian organized crime, outlaw motorcycle gangs are all having a piece or a stock in this sophisticated coordination of getting marijuana into the US.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) Florida – \$219 Million in Cocaine, Marijuana Seized by Coast Guard over 2 Week Period

(U) Port Everglades – The US Coast Guard announced that \$219 million in cocaine and marijuana was offloaded in Port Everglades. The Coast Guard advises that the drugs were found in 12 separate operations involving a number of boats. Numerous agencies were involved in the seizures that took place mostly in the Caribbean, but also in the Eastern Pacific.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [10 Tampa Bay News](#)

(U) Oregon – Colorado Man Charged with Hate Crime after Unprovoked Stabbing of Black Man

(U) Ontario – A Colorado man has been charged with a hate crime after stabbing a Black man from Ontario, Oregon while the man was sitting in a fast food restaurant. The incident occurred at an Arby's fast food restaurant where the victim planned to provide final documentation for a pending job application. Unprovoked and without warning, the suspect approached the man from behind and stabbed him in the neck. After a brief struggle, store employees detained the suspect. The suspect stated shortly after he did the act because the man "was Black, and I don't like Black people."

If convicted, the suspect faces a maximum sentence of life in federal prison.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Virginia – Hackers Indicted for Stealing Data from Aerospace and Satellite Tracking Companies

(U) Alexandria – Federal authorities charged three computer hackers, all of whom were residents and nationals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with engaging in a coordinated campaign of identity theft and hacking on behalf of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a designated terrorist organization, in order to steal critical information related to US aerospace and satellite technology and resources. Using various methods the defendants successfully compromised multiple victim networks, resulting in the theft of sensitive commercial information, intellectual property, and personal data from companies.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [US DOJ](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Niger – ISIS Claims Killing of French Aid Workers in Niger

(U) Dakar – ISIS has credited its West Africa affiliate for killing six French aid workers and their Nigerian guide and driver at a giraffe reserve in Niger. Islamic State said a detachment of its West Africa Province group (ISWAP) carried out the "blitz attack" on the group in the Koure area, southwest of the capital

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Niamey. The six French nationals and their driver worked for an international aid group and were touring the reserve, which is a popular destination for expatriates and was considered safe by the Nigerian government.

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Switzerland – Murder Suspect Acted ‘Out of Vengeance against the Swiss State’

(U) Morges – A man suspected of fatally stabbing a random man in western Switzerland, has confessed by saying that he acted in the name of jihadism. The suspect had been released from prison in July, having been under surveillance for possible links to Islamist terrorism. The Turkish-Swiss dual national had been known to intelligence since 2017 “for the consumption and dissemination of jihadist propaganda. After a day on the run, the suspect was found with the weapon. He reportedly admitted that he had acted in the name of jihadism, “out of vengeance against the Swiss state,” and to “avenge the Prophet.”

SOURCE: 17 September 2020, [SWI Swiss Info](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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